



CENTRAL SHENANDOAH HEALTH DISTRICT

WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE & CLINIC INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

NEW THIS WEEK!

CSHD WILL BEGIN OFFERING PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS

As of 9/23/2021

Millions of Americans who received the Pfizer vaccine are now recommended to get a booster dose.

Who's eligible for a booster?



Age 65+

Along with those who live in long-term care facilities



High Risk

Adults age 50–64 with underlying medical conditions that put them at high risk for severe COVID-19. Younger adults age 18–49 should consider getting a booster based on their individual risk assessment.



High Exposure

Adults age 18–64 who are: healthcare workers, teachers, daycare staff, grocery workers, people in shelters or prisons, among others.

Questions about boosters? Talk to your healthcare provider.

Booster doses are now recommended for some groups of people. The CDC recommends the following:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series,
- people aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series,
- people aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- people aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

The top priority for VDH is still to fully vaccinate people who remain unvaccinated. All three COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the United States continue to be effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the Delta variant. Nearly all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 continue to occur among those not fully vaccinated. Recent data show hospitalization rates are 10 to 22 times higher among the unvaccinated compared to vaccinated adults.

There is no rush for eligible individuals to get a booster dose right away. Vaccine protection decreases gradually over time. Boosters of the Pfizer vaccine are recommended at least 6 months after receiving the second dose, and individuals still have good protection against COVID-19 if they don't receive a booster dose as soon as they are eligible.

As the science and the virus evolves, so do policies and recommendations. Booster doses are common for many vaccines. The scientists and medical experts who developed the COVID-19 vaccines continue to closely watch for signs of waning immunity, how well the vaccines protect against new mutations of the virus, and how that data differs across age groups and risk factors.

What should I do if I received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine? At this time, we are still awaiting further research and guidance regarding boosters for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Pfizer was the first vaccine to be authorized, and therefore its data on any waning effectiveness was also available first. Pfizer was the first vaccine to be authorized, and therefore its data on its ongoing effectiveness was also available first. Guidance is still forthcoming about boosters for the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines and the safety of mixing different vaccines.

Looking for an opportunity to get your Pfizer COVID-19 booster shot this week? We have a clinic for you!

Thursday September 30, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

James Madison University Convocation Center

Pfizer (Booster doses for eligible persons, first and second doses also available)

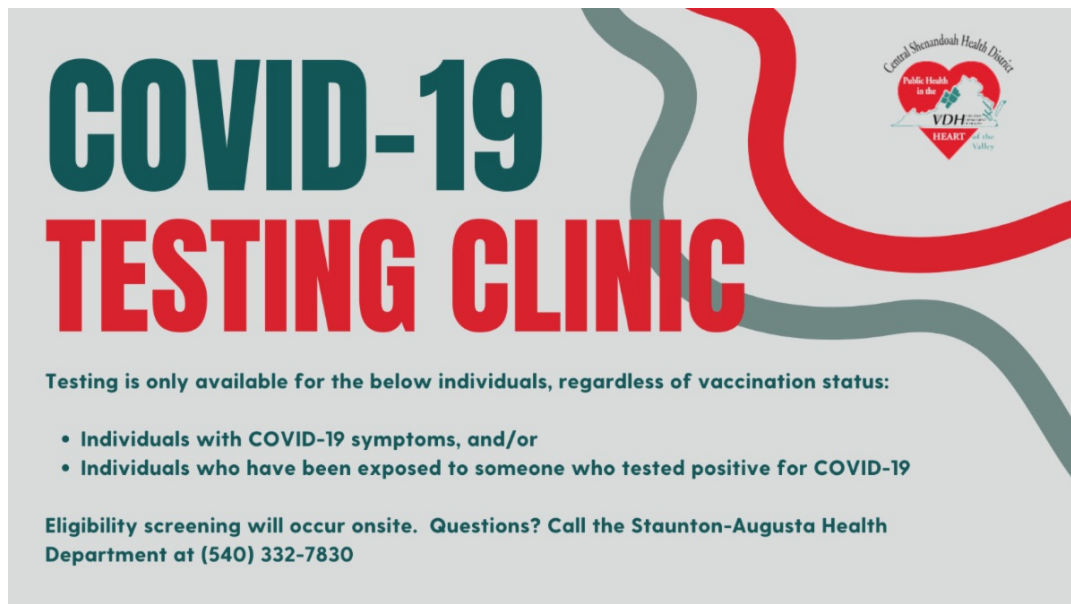
Johnson & Johnson (First dose)

Walk-ins welcome. To skip the line, make an appointment at vase.vdh.virginia.gov.

CSHD is also offering Pfizer booster doses at all health department clinics.

**Read more about COVID-19 Booster
Doses**

CONTINUED COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS IN CSHD



**COVID-19
TESTING CLINIC**

Testing is only available for the below individuals, regardless of vaccination status:

- Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, and/or
- Individuals who have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19

Eligibility screening will occur onsite. Questions? Call the Staunton-Augusta Health Department at (540) 332-7830

The Central Shenandoah Health District continues to offer free, drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinics each week

throughout the district. Testing is available for individuals, regardless of vaccination status, who have symptoms of COVID-19 and/or have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Eligibility will occur onsite.

Tuesday, September 28 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Augusta County Government Center

Thursday, September 30 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Hillandale Park, Harrisonburg

Friday, October 1 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Augusta County Government Center

PCR tests available. A health department employee will call with results once available. Individuals should isolate until they receive a negative test. Call the Staunton-Augusta Health Department for questions or assistance: (540) 332-7830.

[Read more about COVID-19 testing guidance](#)

INFORMATION REGARDING CONTACT TRACING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CLOSE CONTACTS

Case investigators and contact tracers are skilled, trained public health professionals. A case investigator is someone who reaches out to people who test positive to make sure they have the resources and guidance they need to take care of themselves and isolate appropriately. A contract tracer is a person who contacts people who may have been exposed to someone with a positive COVID-19 test result to help them understand quarantine guidelines.

This provided guidance includes information on isolating and quarantining, identifying close contacts to notify so they may isolate and quarantine, and how to monitor symptoms. Unless you give permission, your name will not be given to those you came in contact with, even if they ask. This conversation will be confidential to protect and respect your privacy.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has been working hard to conduct case investigations and contact tracing since the beginning of the COVID-19 response. It is important for community members to trust these public health professionals, respond to their outreach, and follow their guidance to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Contact tracing and case investigations are important because it helps VDH to:

- Provide guidance and education about how to keep yourself and others safe
- Inform public health actions
- Understand communities hit hard by COVID-19
- Track the progress of the outbreak in Virginia
- Connect people with community resources they may need

Contact tracing and case investigation are tools in place to provide the community with care and resources after testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact.

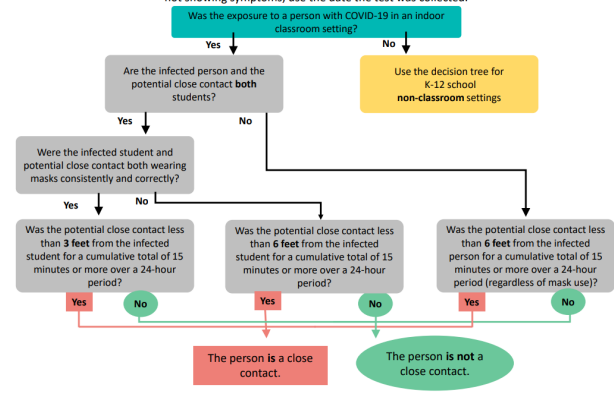
HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY YOUR "CLOSE CONTACTS"?

The CDC created two helpful decision trees for identifying a close contact of COVID-19, both in and out of K12 settings. Check out the graphics above for assistance in identifying a close contact.

You can read more about responding to [COVID-19 cases in K-12 settings on the CDC's website](#).

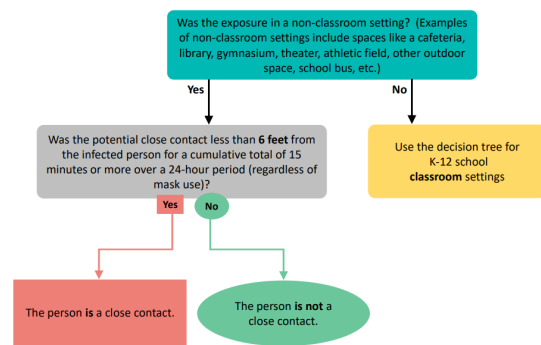
Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School INDOOR CLASSROOM Settings

Note: Complete this decision tree for students and adults in an indoor classroom setting who were within 6 feet of the infected person starting 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test. If the infected person is not showing symptoms, use the date the test was collected.



Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School NON-CLASSROOM Settings

Note: Complete this decision tree for anyone in a non-classroom setting who was within 6 feet of the infected person starting 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test. If the infected person is not showing symptoms, use the date the test was collected.

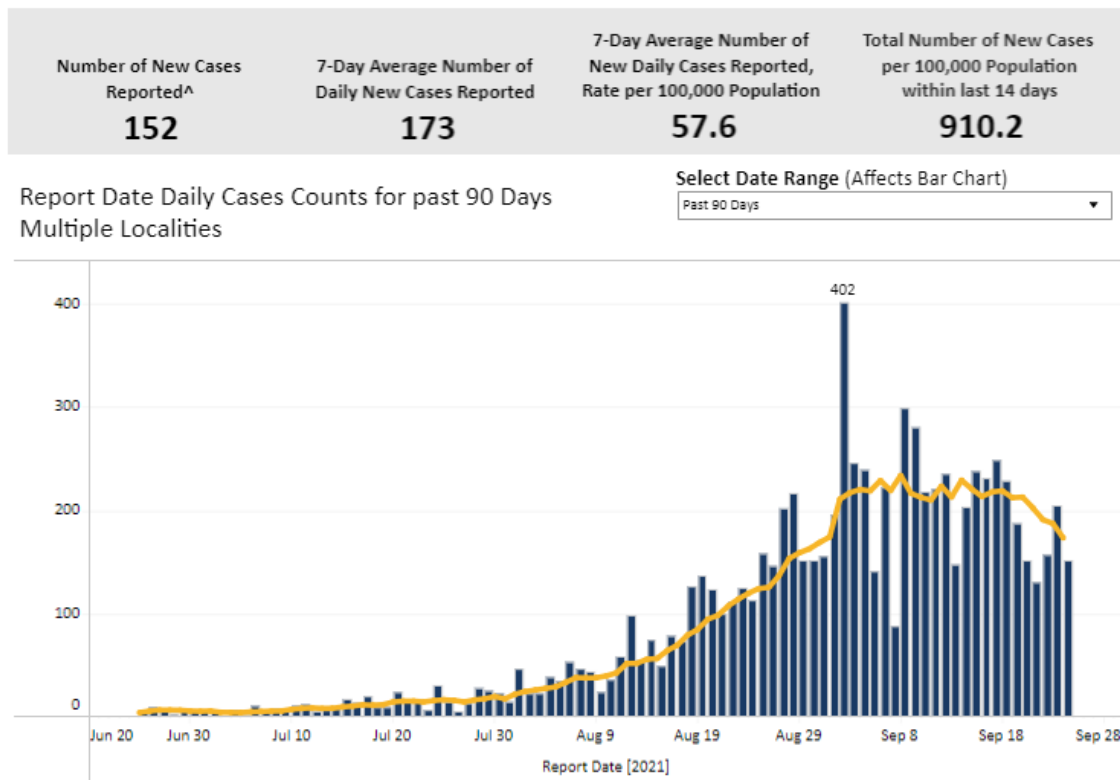


[Read more about COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#)

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH HEALTH DISTRICT COVID-19 DATA

Case Trends

The chart below illustrates the rate of cases throughout the Central Shenandoah Health District over the last 90 days.



Case Data Breakdown

As reported to VDH, by date of lab report. May differ from other sources, due to reporting lags. Negative numbers indicate data corrections, since March 2020. More data can be found [here](#).

	7-Day Average Number of Daily New Cases Reported	Total Cases	Total Hospitalizations	Total Deaths
Rockingham County	38	8,521	524	131
Harrisonburg City	14	7,724	232	99
Augusta County	47	9,341	260	108
Staunton City	11	3,143	34	76
Waynesboro City	9	2,963	85	40
Rockbridge County	12	1,917	67	51
Lexington City	8	1,461	31	33
Buena Vista City	6	1,116	30	22
Bath County	2	402	14	14
Highland County	5	159	2	1
Totals:	152	36,747	1279	575

Vaccination Rates

You are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

In the Central Shenandoah Health District, vaccination percentages are broken down by locality and city below:

	Percentage of Population receiving one dose	Percentage of Population fully vaccinated	Percentage of Adults receiving one dose	Percentage of Adults fully vaccinated
Rockingham County	51.1	46.8	61.4	56.3
Harrisonburg City	51.1	46.1	57.4	51.9
Augusta County	54.1	50.0	63.1	58.4
Staunton City	62.9	57.4	73.4	67.2
Waynesboro City	58.8	53.4	72.2	65.8
Rockbridge County	55.7	51.2	63.9	59.0
Lexington City	52.7	48.6	57.4	53.0
Buena Vista City	53.2	48.0	63.5	57.6
Bath County	53.5	47.1	61.2	54.1
Highland County	55.2	52.1	62.5	59.3
Totals:	54.8	50.1	63.6	58.3

Data Sources - Find out more!

The Virginia Department of Health maintains a COVID-19 dashboard containing case, vaccination and transmission data. To find out more about this data and how it is collected, click the link below!

Visit the VDH COVID-19 Data
Dashboard

COVID-19 MITIGATION



Vaccination is our number one line of defense in defeating COVID-19. All COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the United States are safe, effective and free. **The Central Shenandoah Health District encourages everyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine do so as soon as possible!**

In addition to vaccination, layering other public health mitigation measures can keep you and your family safe! This can include:

- **Masking up in areas of high transmission**, even if you have already been vaccinated. Currently, the majority of localities throughout the state are in a state of substantial to high transmission. Read more about transmission [here](#).
- **Practice physical distancing (also known as social distancing)**, and stay 6 feet apart from others. It is a way to slow the spread of COVID-19 by reducing close contact between people. The closer you are to other people who are not fully vaccinated and the more time you spend with those people, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, rubbing your hands together for at least 30 seconds until they are dry.

Read more about COVID-19 Mitigation Best Practices

Health Education Corner



September is National Recovery Month. This year, we celebrate the gains made by those in recovery of substance use disorder! Here are some takeaway messages as we celebrate:

- Behavioral health is essential to overall health.
- Prevention works.
- Treatment is effective.
- People can and do recover!

For more information on National Recovery Month and why we celebrate, please visit <https://www.naadac.org/national-recovery-month>

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

Click the button below for a full list of COVID-19 vaccine clinics happening in the Central Shenandoah Health District. The clinics are separated by region. Please note that the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 12+ and the Moderna

and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for ages 18+. These schedules are subject to change

You can register for these clinics at vase.vdh.virginia.gov.

**View the COVID-19 Community
Calendars**

We also continue to partner with organizations throughout the district to provide access to COVID-19 vaccines. Visit the websites below for COVID-19 vaccine clinics operated by our community partners!

- Augusta Health: <https://vaccinate.augustahealth.com/vaccine-appointments/>
- Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital: <https://www.carilionclinic.org/covid-19-vaccine#latest-updates>
- Health Community Health Centers: <https://www.hburgchc.org/covid-19-2/>
- Rockbridge Area Health Center: <https://www.rockahc.org/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>
- Sentra Rockingham Memorial Hospital: <https://www.sentara.com/harrisonburg-virginia/covid-19-information.aspx>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19, VISIT:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/>

